

What is claimed is:

1. A method for recovering carpet comprising polymeric fibers, which method comprises:
 - 5 a) establishing and maintaining a database of installed carpet information comprising carpet type, installation date and consumer identification data;
 - b) estimating the useful lifetime of the installed carpet;
 - c) contacting the consumer within a determined period of time from the end of the estimated useful lifetime of the carpet;
 - 10 d) collecting the carpet;
 - e) sorting the collected carpet according to polymeric fiber type; and
 - f) converting the polymeric fibers into a recovered polymer composition.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the subsequent step of forming an
 - 15 article from the recovered polymer composition.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the subsequent step of forming polymeric fibers from the recovered polymer composition.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the subsequent step of forming polymeric fibers from the recovered polymer composition and then forming the polymeric fibers into a carpet.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein step of converting the polymeric fibers into
 - 25 a recovered polymer composition comprises depolymerizing at least one type of polymeric fiber into its monomeric components.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein step of converting the polymeric fibers into a recovered polymer composition comprises depolymerizing at least one type

of polymeric fiber into its monomeric components and then repolymerizing the monomeric components to form the recovered polymer composition.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the subsequent step of forming an
5 article from the recovered polymer composition.

8. The method of claim 6 further comprising the subsequent step of forming fibers from the recovered polymer composition.

10 9. The method of claim 6 further comprising the subsequent step of forming fibers from the recovered polymer composition and then forming the fibers into a carpet.

10 10. The method of claim 1 wherein step f) comprises depolymerizing a nylon
15 polymeric fiber into its monomeric components.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein step f) comprises depolymerizing a nylon
6 polymeric fiber into its monomeric components.

20 12. The method of claim 1 wherein step a) is conducted via a global computer network.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein step c) is conducted using one or more communication methods selected from the group consisting of mail,
25 telephone, telefax, electronic mail, and a global computer network.

14. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step after step c) of providing the consumer with a replacement carpet.

15. The method of claim 1 further comprising the preliminary step before step
a) of installing a carpet at a consumer location.

16. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the consumer with an
5 incentive to replace the carpet.

17. A method for recovering carpet comprising polymeric fibers, which
method comprises:

- a) installing a carpet at a consumer location;
- 10 b) establishing and maintaining a database of installed carpet information
comprising carpet type, installation date and consumer identification data;
- c) estimating the useful lifetime of the installed carpet;
- d) contacting the consumer within a determined period of time of the end of
the estimated useful lifetime of the carpet;
- 15 e) collecting the carpet;
- f) sorting the collected carpet according to polymeric fiber type;
- g) depolymerizing the polymeric fibers into their monomeric components;
- h) repolymerizing the monomeric components to form a recovered polymer
composition, and
- 20 i) forming fibers from the recovered polymer composition, and then forming
the fibers into a carpet.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the polymeric fibers comprise at least one
25 nylon.

19. The method of claim 17 further comprising providing the consumer with
an incentive to replace the carpet.

20. The method of claim 17 further comprising providing the consumer with a
30 replacement carpet.

21. The method of claim 17 wherein step b) is conducted via a global computer network.

- 5 22. The method of claim 17 wherein step d) is conducted using one or more communication methods selected from the group consisting of mail, telephone, telefax, electronic mail, and a global computer network.

- 10 23. A method for recovering carpet comprising nylon polymeric fibers, which method comprises:
- a) establishing and maintaining a database of installed carpet information comprising carpet type, installation date and consumer identification data;
 - b) estimating the useful lifetime of the installed carpet;
 - c) contacting the consumer within a determined period of time from the end of
 - 15 the estimated useful lifetime of the carpet using one or more communication methods selected from the group consisting of mail, telephone, telefax, electronic mail, and a global computer network;
 - d) collecting the carpet;
 - e) sorting the collected carpet according to polymeric fiber type including
 - 20 nylon polymeric fibers;
 - f) depolymerizing at least one type of nylon polymeric fiber into its monomeric components;
 - g) repolymerizing the monomeric components to form a recovered polymer composition, and
 - 25 h) forming nylon fibers from the recovered polymer composition, and then forming the fibers into a carpet.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the nylon polymeric fibers comprises nylon 6.

25. The method of claim 23 wherein step a) is conducted via a global computer network.

5 26. The method of claim 23 further comprising the step after step c) of providing the consumer with a replacement carpet.

27. The method of claim 23 further comprising the preliminary step before step a) of installing a carpet at a consumer location.

10 28. The method of claim 23 further comprising providing the consumer with an incentive to replace the carpet.